

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this subject application is respectfully requested. The Examiner refers MPEP 608.02(g) and indicates that Figures 1-8 should be designated as "PRIOR ART". Applicant respectfully disagrees. There is nothing in the text of the specification that would suggest that the Applicant has characterized these drawings as "PRIOR ART." Nor is there anything in this cited MPEP section which requires Applicant to designate any Figures as PRIOR ART. Accordingly, the requirement is respectfully traversed.

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's allowance of claims 1-20 and 25-36 as well as the indication of allowable subject matter in claim 22.

Claims 21 and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,694,419 to Lawrence et al. Moreover, claim 23 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Lawrence in view of commonly-assigned U.S. Patent 6,055,893 to Hyll.

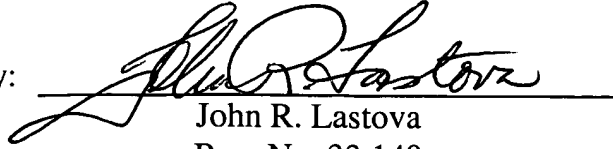
Although Applicant does not agree with the Examiner's characterization of the Lawrence reference, in order to expedite allowance of the application, the subject matter of allowable dependent claim 22 has been incorporated into independent claim 21. Accordingly, the Examiner's rejection is moot, and the application is now condition for allowance. An early notice to that the effect is earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

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By:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John R. Lastova", is written over a horizontal line.

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